

MEDIA RELEASE

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**NATIONAL
SPORTS
MUSEUM**
moments that made us

Jessica Watson joins Australia's Sporting Elite

Home-grown hero and 2011 Young Australian of the Year Jessica Watson sailed into the National Sports Museum today to present historical items from her epic voyage around the world.

Watson, famous for navigating some of the globe's most treacherous seas to become the youngest person to sail solo, non-stop and unassisted around the world, joins the likes of Shane Warne, James Hird, Shane Gould and Cathy Freeman, who have displays in Australia's most comprehensive sporting collection.

The National Sports Museum is pleased to mark this great Australian sporting moment by accepting several key objects from Watson's inspirational journey.

The treasures include the lanyard used to attach Watson to her boat, *Ella's Pink Lady*, a lifejacket, a drogue and the sea-boots Watson wore during the colder stages of the voyage.

General Manager of the National Sports Museum, Margaret Birtley, said: "Jessica has inspired a generation of young Australians and we are delighted to be able to celebrate her achievement and contribution to Australia's rich sporting history."

Jessica said she was humbled to be part of the National Sports Museum's collection, stating "I never expected to see the drogue, which was used as a safety device to stop the boat from rolling over in the Southern Ocean, beautifully displayed here at the National Sports Museum. It's quite an honour."

Watson's memorabilia will be permanently displayed alongside exhibits in the National Sports Museum. The National Sports Museum is located inside Gate 3 (Olympic Stand) at the MCG.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Lia Pacquola
Haystac
03 8689 2215
0438 560 608

Shane Brown
Communications Manager
Melbourne Cricket Club
0418 353 431